

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated March 11, 2004. Because this paper is accompanied by a petition for a one month extension of time, extending the response date to April 12, 2004, it is timely filed.

Please note that while the Advisory Action indicated that the period for reply expires three months from the mailing date of the Final Rejection dated November 21, 2003, because the applicants had filed a response within two months of the date of the Final Rejection on January 21, 2004, any extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should be calculated from the mailing date of the Advisory Action, i.e., March 11, 2004.

A. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

By their amendment of January 21, 2004, applicants canceled claims 38-65 and added claims 66-95. However, the Examiner did not enter the January 21 Amendment. By this amendment, claims 66-95 have been canceled and claims 96-109 have been added. Thus, claims 96-109 are presently pending.

B. THE CLAIMS ARE ALLOWABLE

The applicants' attorney had a telephone interview with the Examiner on April 6, 2004, during which it was agreed that if the applicants present an amendment as per the suggestion by the Examiner in the Paragraph 13 of the November 21 Office Action, i.e., rewriting the objected claim 51 in an independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims, the Examiner will enter the amendment.

In response to the Interview with the Examiner, applicants present this amendment where independent claim 96 recites a gaming apparatus including the limitations of claim 51, which was indicated to be allowable in Paragraph 13 of the November 21 Office Action, and its base claim 38. Moreover, claims 97-109 are identical to claims 39-50 and 52, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above application is in condition for allowance. If there is any matter that the examiner would like to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

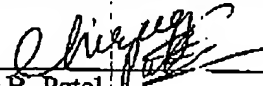
Serial No. 10/036,092
Docket No. 29757/AG50

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

April 12, 2004

By:


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